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ABSTRACT

The guide offers practical information on various aspects of daily living, including: money; banks; food; restaurants; hotels; tipping; postal and telecommunications services; transportation; shopping; health and medical care; safety and security; electricity; measurement and clothing size conversions; greetings and leave-takings; titles and forms of address; conversational topics; friendship; invitations; personal space and privacy; time; silence and noise; family life; eating customs and meals; manners and dress; leisure and sports; and festivals and celebrations. Suggestions for appropriate behavior and expectations are offered. It also includes basic information about Spain: a historical sketch; a map; facts about major cities; geography; government; economy; education; religion; and arts and crafts. A final chapter addresses use of the Spanish language, and includes a pronunciation guide, basic grammar facts, some useful expressions, and some typically Spanish expressions. A brief bibliography lists additional books about Spain. (MSE)

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LIVING IN SPAIN

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A Brief
Introduction or Review
of the Culture and Language of Spain
for Visitors, Students, and
Business Travelers

◀ First Edition ▶

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LIVING IN SPAIN

Alvino E. Fantini, PH.D.

Cristina Enríquez A., M.A.T.

Illustrated by A. Mario Fantini

PRO LINGUA ASSOCIATES

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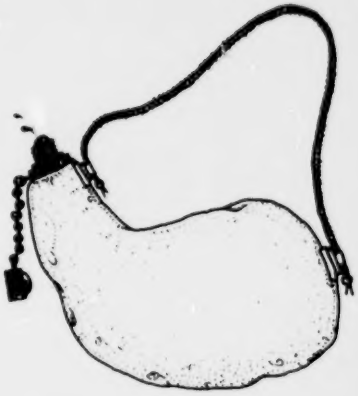

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Illustrations by A. Mario Fantini
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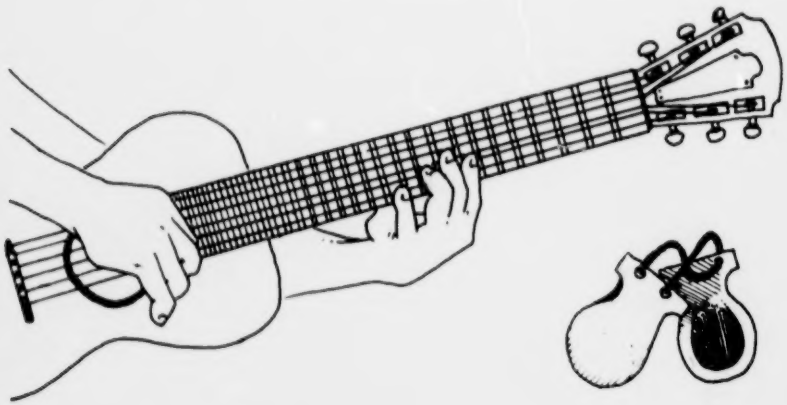


1. FIRST STEPS

You are about to embark upon an adventure—living in another country. Your destination is Spain. When you arrive, you will need to be able to satisfy some immediate survival needs. Often you will find that you must do things differently from how you do them at home. This section is designed to help you get started learning how to live in Spain. Filling in the details will be up to you. So while we can tell you, for instance, about restaurants and eating habits in Spain, you will need to find places to eat which have food you like and can afford. And while we can tell you about different means of transportation existing in Spain, you will still need to find the best way to get around the town where you live. We can suggest alternatives, but you will be making the final choices.

One final note: You may find that cultural changes, technological advances, and regional differences affect customs, values, systems, and even the "country facts" as reported in this booklet. So "expect the unexpected" and be prepared to learn as well from your own experience. However, the information in this section and those which follow can be used as an initial guide. ***¡Buena Suerte!***

This section covers the topics listed below. Read those of most interest to you now; then read the others as the need arises.

1.1 Money
1.2 Banks
1.3 Food
1.4 Restaurants
1.5 Hotels
1.6 Tipping
1.7 Telephone
1.8 Letters, Telegrams, and Faxes
1.9 Transportation
1.10 Shopping
1.11 Health and Medical Care
1.12 Security
1.13 Electricity
1.14 Conversions

1.1 Money

The *peseta* (plural: *pesetas*) is the monetary unit used in Spain, although this may change if a common European currency is adopted. The value of the *peseta* changes according to the world money market, so check current exchange rates before you leave for Spain.

Pesetas come in the following denominations: coins for 1, 5, 25, 50, 100, 200, and 500 *pesetas*; and banknotes for 1,000, 5,000, and 10,000 *pesetas*.

People also use the term *duro*, which equals 5 *pesetas*; so 20 *duros* equal 100 *pesetas*.

Traveler's checks and major credit cards are accepted in most places in Spain..

1.2 Banks

Banks are generally open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays, although this schedule may vary from town to town and in different seasons of the year. A 24-hour exchange service is provided at the Barajas Airport and at the Atocha and Chamartín train stations in Madrid. You will need your passport for identification when changing traveler's checks, and sometimes when exchanging foreign currency.

There are many automatic teller machines at banks, American Express offices, airports, and other places around Spain. From those with a blue and yellow signs reading 4-B, you can withdraw up to 25,000 *pesetas* a day using an American Express card or a Visa card— if you have made prearrangements to do so with your Visa office in the United States.

1.3 Food

Food varies in Spain from region to region, and you will have the opportunity to taste many things you have not had before. A typical Spanish meal consists of several dishes served one after another, rather than all at the same time.

Some common foods in Spain are beef, pork, lamb, and many types of fish, beans, vegetables, rice, and fruit. Sweet desserts are not common at the end of a meal, although pastries are eaten at other times.

Some typical Spanish dishes from different regions include *Callos a la Andaluza* and *Gazpacho* (Andalucía), *Cordero Asado* (Castilla), *Migas* (Extremadura), *Conejo en Tojunto* (La Mancha), *Paella Valenciana* (Levante), *Lentejas a la Babia* (León), *Cabrito Asado* (Aragón), *Fabada Asturiana* (Asturias and Santander), *Caldo Gallego* (Galicia), *Merluza a la Riojana* (Rioja and Navarra), and *Bacalao a la Vizcaia* (Vascongadas).

1.4 Restaurants

Depending on whether you are in a large city or a small town, you may find either a great variety of restaurants or just one or two local places. Where there is a variety, the prices will vary, and certain types of restaurants will specialize in different meals or types of food. For example, the *café* or *churrería* is where people go for breakfast. In city neighborhoods and small towns where there are only local restaurants or *bares*, they tend to be family operations, and the food they offer is normally prepared for local taste rather than for tourists.

Restaurants and bars usually serve lunch between 1:30 and 4:30. Common options for lunch include *combinados* (combined dishes), which are popular as well as the cheapest full meal you can get. A variety of prepared dishes can be ordered in *raciones* or *medias raciones* (full or half portions), so you can taste different items. Most *restaurantes* also serve *a la carta*.

One of the most popular items found in Central and Southern Spain are the *tapas*. *Tapas* are a Spanish snack, and people usually eat them before main meals. Going out to eat *tapas* also provides a chance for social gatherings and meeting friends. *Tapas* are always accompanied by beer, or wine. You are charged for the *tapas* you consume, except in Granada, where they are often served free with the beer or wine you order.

1.5 Hotels

Spanish hotels are officially classified by their function and level. There are *hoteles-apartamentos* (apartment hotels), with usual hotel facilities but also accommodations in flats or bungalows. *Hostales* (regular hotels) are rated first ★★★, second ★★, and third class ★. Then there are more modest hotels or inns, providing accommodations with or without meals, and pensiones (guest houses) which have a limited number of rooms and provide full board.

In major tourist centers there are also *paradores nacionales de turismo*, usually luxury hotels in converted old castles, palaces, and convents, but sometimes specially built as *parádores*. These are excellently run and offer every comfort and amenity as well as excellent cuisine. They cost more than ordinary hotels in the same category, but they definitely provide a unique touristic experience.

1.6 Tipping

Most services are not tipped, although in large cities and resorts, a 10% tip may be appropriate, sometimes less. At restaurants, usually small change is adequate. The same holds true for taxis.

Upon arrival, you should ask your Spanish hosts what the appropriate tip is for each requested service.

1.7 Telephone

Telephone calls can be made from phone booths, bars, or hotels. Phone booths are coin-operated phones and can be found in most areas of Spain. Local calls can be made with a 25-peseta coin for the first three minutes. Long distance calls will require more coins depending on where you are calling.

To use a pay phone, place the coin(s) in the slot at the top of the phone. When you lift the receiver you should hear a dial tone immediately. Dial your number. When the person you are calling answers the phone, the coin(s) will drop automatically. It takes a little while for the person you are calling to start hearing you. Note that hotels often add a substantial percentage on international calls made, so it is important to check before you make such calls from a hotel. "Collect" international

calls cannot be made from bars, hotels, or public phone booths; they must be made at the *Telefónica*. There is at least one *Telefónica* office in every major city and in many smaller towns.

1.8 Letters, Telegrams, and Faxes

Post offices in Spain are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day except Sunday. You can also buy stamps at tobacco shops.

Telegrams and telexes can be sent from any post office, usually following the same schedule. Telexes are faster and much cheaper than telegrams, but of course you will need to have a telex number to which to address your message. Faxes can also be sent and received. There are often charges made for both sending and receiving faxes in hotels and other public places. Charges are normally made on a per-page basis.

1.9 Transportation

The Spanish train system is known as RENFE. Train travel is good but usually more expensive than traveling by bus. Most Spanish trains have both first- and second-class cars. Most trains also have "smoking" and "no smoking" sections or cars.

There are different types of trains: the *AVE*, Spain's first high-speed train, which runs between Madrid and Sevilla; the *Talgo*, the fastest and most comfortable regular train, for which there is a supplemental fee depending on the distance and class you are traveling; the *Rápido*, which is not as fast as the *talgo* and makes some stops on the way; the *Expresso*, a fast long-distance express train; and the *Directo* and the *Local*, the cheapest and slowest, which make all stops along the route being traveled. RENFE often offers special rates for students. Check at the RENFE office if you think you are eligible.

Most long-distance, overnight trains have first- and second-class sleeping cars and second-class *couchettes*. Seat reservations can be made on many long-distance trips and on all international trains. When traveling second-class without a reservation, it is important to get to the station early if you want to get a seat, especially on weekends and holidays.

There is usually a bar or cafeteria in the train station where you can eat before a trip. Some trains also have dining cars, but food and drinks are usually more expensive than in the station.

There is an information center for the three train stations in Madrid: Chamartín, Atocha, and Príncipe Pío (Norte); telephone numbers are 733-30-00 and 733-22-00. You can also buy tickets at the RENFE office in Calle Alcalá, 44, in Madrid, or at any travel agency.

Trains from Chamartín go to Burgos, Bilbao, Hendaya, France, Levante, Asturias, Santander, and Cataluña. Trains from Atocha go to Andalucía, Levante, Extremadura, Portugal, Toledo, Alcalá de Henares, and Guadalajara. Those from Atocha (*apeadero*) go to Cercedilla-Segovia, El Escorial-Avila, Universidad de Cantoblanco, Villalba de Guadarrama, and Puerto de Navacerrada-Los Cotos. Trains from Príncipe Pío (*Norte*) go to Galicia and Salamanca.

Bus transportation throughout Spain is also very good. Buses between cities have regular schedules, often leaving in the morning and arriving in the evening. Most local transportation is by bus, except in Madrid, where there is also an excellent subway system known as the *metro*.

Taxis can be hailed right on the street or taken at taxi stands. There are also radio-taxis in some of the major cities, which usually respond quickly.

There is convenient bus service between Barajas Airport and Madrid. Buses to the National and International terminals of Barajas Airport leave from a subterranean station in the Plaza Colón and return to the same point, leaving approximately every half hour from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

1.10 Shopping

Shops are normally open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Most are closed on Sundays.

Spain offers a wide choice of arts and crafts. Each region has its own specialties and the best buys are found in the region where the particular craft is made.

Madrid, in particular, offers innumerable stores and luxury shops and the marvellous spectacle of windows filled with a great variety of articles. The center of Madrid is notable for such places, particularly along the popular Gran Vía, or Calle de Serrano, which has the most elegant high fashion shops.

Shopping in Andalucía offers other choices of products: wines, magnificent pork products, extraordinary handicrafts, etc.

Other special items worth mentioning are blankets from Grazalema (Cádiz), Moroccan leather work and *repouseé* (Ubrique), basket work in Medina Sidonia, Jerez (Cádiz), original lanterns and marquetry (Granada), and jewelry made with age-old techniques and using unique examples of silver-*repouseé* (Sevilla) and filigree (Córdoba and Granada).

Embroidered mantillas from Granada and Talavera de la Reina and silk shawls found typically in Sevilla make fine and sometimes expensive presents. Other important centers for craftsmanship are in Toledo and Cuenca.

Look for various well-known markets such as El Jueves in Sevilla; El Pioj[illegible]o en Cádiz; or Plaza de la Corredera in Córdoba to find all kinds of second-hand objects and curiosities. El Rastro is a similar market in Madrid that is an interesting place to visit on Sunday mornings.

Most of Spain's major cities have two big department stores, El Corte Inglés and Galerías Preciados where you can find the latest fashion, cosmetics, china and porcelain, quality souvenirs, and leather. Ask for the Passport Service Card, which provides tax-free purchases and a 10% discount. The Centro La Vaguada is also well known in Madrid. Aside from its interesting architecture, it houses stores, restaurants, movies, and discothèques, and it is open Sundays.

1.11 Health and Medical Care

It is safe to drink water throughout most of Spain. Granada is famous for its water, which comes from the Sierra Nevada and is possibly the best water you can drink in Spain. In certain rural areas, you should drink bottled water or soda.

The Spanish government provides extensive medical care through its social security system, which operates hospitals and clinics throughout the country. Spaniards pay no charge for this service. Foreigners may also use the same facilities in case of emergencies, but they must pay an appropriate service fee. Naturally, private doctors and hospitals are also available.

1.12 Security

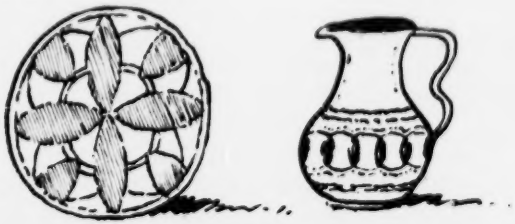
When you are traveling, it is always advisable to have a hidden pocket or money belt to secure your money, traveler's checks, and passport. However, don't carry all these items with you. Whenever possible, put what you are carrying in different compartments in your purse or carrying bag. If you are staying in a hotel, leave what you don't need in the hotel safe. Do not leave valuables in a hotel room when you are not there.

In *cafés* and restaurants, keep your belongings on your lap. If you are carrying a bag or purse, try to keep the strap around your wrist. Do not set items on a separate table while eating.

In train stations and airports, watch your luggage, and don't leave anything in full view in a car. Lock whatever you have in the trunk if you must leave it in a vehicle.

1.13 Electricity

There are no 110-volt electrical outlets in Spain. All outlets are for 220-volt appliances. Outlets have holes for two round prongs. You can buy a simple plug adapter to attach to your appliance plugs when traveling. Read the instructions that come with your appliance to make sure they are safe to operate at the higher voltage level. Some electric shavers and hairdryers, for example, come equipped with a special switch to change voltage.



1.14 Conversions

In Europe, sizes and measures differ from those used in the United States. The following charts are provided to help you make the necessary conversions if you are not already acquainted with the European system.

Measurements

Weights and Linear

Metric	U.S.
1 gram (g)	0.035 ounce
454 grams	1 pound
1 kilogram ("kilo")	2.2 pounds
1 centimeter (cm)	0.3937 inch
2.54 centimeters	1 inch
1 meter (m)	3.280 feet
1609.3 meters	1 mile

Liquid Measure

1 liter (l)	2.113 pints
1 liter	1.056 quarts
3.785 liters	1 gallon

Dry Measure

1 liter	0.908 quart
1 dekaliter (10 l)	1.135 pecks
1 hectoliter (100 l)	2.837 bushels

Kitchen Equivalents

200 grams	1 cup sugar
150 g	1 cup flour
5 g	1 teaspoon
12 g	1 tablespoon

Kilometers and Miles

1 km	0.62 miles	25 km	15.5 miles
3	1.8	35	21.7
5	3.1	50	31.0
8	4.9	100	62.1
10	6.2	200	124.2
15	9.3	300	186.4
20	12.4	500	310.6

*Thermometer Readings**

38°C	100.4°F	0°C	32°F
35°	95°	-5°	23°
30°	86°	-10°	14°
25°	77°	-15°	5°
20°	68°	-17.77°	0°
10°	50°	-25°	-13°
5°	41°	-30°	-22°

*European thermometers use the centigrade scale. To convert Fahrenheit to centigrade, subtract 32, then multiply by 5 and divide by 9. To convert centigrade to Fahrenheit, multiply by 9, divide by 5, and add 32. For example, 21° C = 69.8° F precisely. The chart above gives an approximate conversion.

If you don't have a calculator handy or the time for long-hand calculations, this very rough rule of thumb will give you the approximate Fahrenheit equivalent of centigrade temperatures: the centigrade temperature times 2 plus 30 equals the approximate Fahrenheit temperature, or C° x 2 + 30 = F° (approx.).

Clothing Sizes

Skirts, Dresses, Coats:

Europe	U.S.
38	10
40	12
42	14
44	16
46	18
48	20

Blouses:

Europe	U.S.
38	30
40	32
42	34
44	36
46	38
48	40

Shirts:

Europe	U.S.
36	14
37	14½
38	15
39	15½
40	16
41	16
42	16½
43	17

Shoes:

Europe	U.S.
36	5
37	6
38	7
39	8
40	9
41	10
42	11
43	12

2. CUSTOMS AND VALUES

Now that you have a handle on some basic facts about where to find what you need and how to get it, you will want to begin looking more closely at how people live in Spain. Since Spaniards are to be your new friends and family, it is important to understand their customs and values so that you can fit into their world successfully. The topics covered in this section have been chosen to help you begin your study of Spanish customs and values. Again, it will be up to you to learn the specifics about the people with whom you live and interact. The information we give you here is only a place for you to start. This is a beginning for your cultural exploration; it will be up to you to complete it.

The following topics are covered in this section:

2.1 Greetings and Leave-takings
2.2 Titles and Forms of Address
2.3 Conversational Topics
2.4 Friendship
2.5 Invitations
2.6 Personal Space and Privacy
2.7 Time
2.8 Silence and Noise
2.9 Family Life
2.10 Eating Customs and Meals
2.11 Manners and Dress
2.12 Leisure and Sports
2.13 Festivals and Celebrations

2.1 Greetings and Leave-takings

Spaniards seldom include names in introductions. Rather, they introduce the person as "a friend," and the friend is expected to inject his or her name. Men normally shake hands with each other in greeting, and women kiss each other on each cheek. When introducing or greeting female friends, men also kiss them on each cheek. The most common response to an introduction is *Mucho gusto*, to which one answers *Mucho gusto*. Young people may use the more informal *Hola*.

Leave-taking expressions depend on whether you are going to see the person later or not; they range from *Hasta luego* to *Adiós*.

2.2 Titles and Forms of Address

Titles of respect are common in Spain. Older titles still exist, such as *Rey, Príncipe, Duque*, and *Conde* (king, prince, duke, and count) for men, and *Reina, Princesa, Duquesa*, and *Condesa*, (queen, princess, duchess, and countess) their feminine equivalents. Titles based on occupation, such as *Presidente, Alcalde, Ministro, Diputado* (president, mayor, minister, deputy) are in common use. The most widely used titles, however, are those which express marital status. They are *Señor* (Mr.), *Señora* (Mrs.) and *Señorita* (Miss). There is no equivalent in Spanish for Ms.

In Spanish, the informal pronoun form *tú* (you) with its corresponding verb forms are used only between people who know one another well. Addressing someone with these forms is called *tutearse*, and you should not engage in "*tuteo*" when speaking with people you don't know well. Instead, the formal *usted* (you) along with appropriate titles should be used. The only exception to this is among young people, many of whom do not follow this tradition. In Castilian Spanish, when speaking in the plural, there is a tendency to use indiscriminately the familiar form *vosotros* (with its corresponding verb form) rather than *ustedes*. (see page 38).

2.3 Conversational Topics

When talking together, Spaniards often talk all at the same time, with the same intensity and volume. At first, you might be overwhelmed by the speed and high volume of conversations, but this conversational style is quite normal.

Spaniards have two preferred topics of conversation, *fútbol* (soccer) and politics, although you should take care not to discuss Spanish politics specifically unless your conversational partner brings it up. Even so, keep your remarks general; it is often considered inappropriate for foreigners to comment too much about Spain, even though Spaniards themselves may often be quite critical of their own country.

2.4 Friendship

Spaniards are friendly but not warm. Friendships are important to them, and therefore they usually develop long-term relationships. It is quite easy to make acquaintances, but it takes time to develop a real friendship.

2.5 Invitations

Spaniards like to go out to a bar for drinks and *tapas* (a variety of snacks) with friends. Spaniards value the art of being able to sit and enjoy life, drinking, eating, or just talking, without feeling that they should be doing something. You will need to develop an ability to relax Spanish-style when invited to someone's home or to public places. If a Spanish friend "invites" you to go out, you're not expected to pay. However, you should offer to pay for a second *ronda* (round) or a next *ronda* of drinks. It will be both appreciated and appropriate.

Written invitations are not common except for weddings or other quite important celebrations. Most invitations are extended casually. Most entertaining is done in public places rather than in the home.

2.6 Personal Space and Privacy

The concept of personal space, privacy, and being alone is foreign to Spaniards. They like to be surrounded by family, friends, etc. They enjoy each other's company. Spaniards frequently touch each other when talking and usually stand closer to each other than most Americans do.

2.7 Time

Time is not of the essence in Spain. Spaniards are often rather casual about being on time for an appointment, visiting a friend, or going to a party. It is said that the only things that start on time in Spain

are the bullfights. Events with fixed schedules such as movies, TV programs, ballets, and theater, do start on time. But beyond these exceptions, punctuality is not in general a major concern.

2.8 Silence and Noise

TV, radio, voices, vehicles, and whatever else produces noise often seem to be too high in volume for foreign visitors. However, Spaniards in general are used to noise, and it doesn't disturb them.

2.9 Family Life

It is difficult to make accurate generalizations about family life in Spain. Much depends on social class and the economic status of the family. However, there are some basic characteristics that can be taken as fairly general. It is not common for old people to be placed in nursing homes. When an older person can no longer live alone, he or she will usually live with children and the children's family.

Children are expected to live with their parents until they get married. When living outside of the home, married children usually keep in touch with parents. This practice is changing in larger cities.

Both the individual and family names are important. This may be because families are close, and they often build a reputation based on their name. Last names are very important, since they denote an individual's family and his or her place in society. However, by law, married women are no longer required to use their husbands last name so it is becoming increasingly common to simply keep their maiden names. If they add the husband's last name, they normally take his fathers last name and add it on at the end.

The naming system is as follows:

(father)	Jose **Fernández** González
(mother)	Carmen Flores **Fernández**
(son)	Francisco **Fernández** Flores
(daughter)	Concepción **Fernández** Flores
(married daughter)	Concepción **Fernández** Osuna
(son-in-law)	Emilio Osuna Rodríguez

2.10 Eating Customs and Meals

In Spain, the knife and fork are not manipulated as in the U.S. Spaniards do not switch the fork constantly from one hand to the other as is done in the States. They usually hold the fork in the right hand. However, when cutting, they generally move the fork to the left hand, and after the food is cut, they eat with the fork in the left hand. When they have finished cutting, they switch the fork back to the right hand to eat food that doesn't need to be cut.

Another difference is that when eating with either hand (left or right), the Spaniard does not rest the other in his or her lap. That hand must always be *on top* of the table edge. Whether one is eating or not, both hands remain on the table, never in the lap. Likewise, the napkin is left on the table and not placed on the lap. Certain dishes, such as *Arroz con Conejo* (rice with rabbit), *paella, Migas* (a dish made with fried bread crumbs), and salad are often served in the pan or bowl in which they are prepared and the diners may eat directly from them. Also, fruit is always peeled before eating.

Spaniards usually drink wine with meals. Although Spaniards eat three meals a day, it seems that they eat more often because *tapas* (snacks) are so common. Common meals are *desayuno* (breakfast), *comida* (lunch), and *cena* (dinner). *Desayuno* is a light meal. *Comida*, the main meal, usually takes place between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. After lunch, a siesta is not unusual. *Cena* varies. If it is a formal dinner, people might begin quite late. At home, however, most people eat about 9 p.m. *Tapas* may be frequent and consumed at almost any time, in mid-morning and mid-evening, as well as late at night. These are normally consumed in a bar with a glass of wine or beer.

While eating, Spaniards speak a lot and sometimes watch TV. One does not burp at the table, or anywhere in the presence of others. In more informal circles, this sometimes happens, but it is considered ill-mannered. If speaking while eating, it is polite to cover one's mouth with the hand.

2.11 Manners and Dress

Great importance is still attached to appropriate manners and dress. It is considered bad manners for a man to wear shorts in town, and many Spaniards — especially those in certain jobs — tend to cling to

the formality of wearing a tie, even in the heat of summer, to a greater extent than in some other countries. On the other hand, more informal dress is worn by others, such as school teachers and clerks. For men, this often consists of slacks, a sweater worn over a shirt, and/or a jacket.

A degree of tolerance is extended to foreign visitors in popular tourist centers, but they should not stretch this indulgence too far, as they may attract a measure of ridicule.

No official facilities exist for nude bathing in most of Spain, although there are certain beaches in Formentera, the Canaries, and the Costa del Sol where nude and topless bathing is tolerated by authorities.

2.12 Leisure and Sports

Spaniards enjoy free time in a variety of ways. They like to *vivir en la calle* (live in the street). They enjoy drinking wine and beer, and eating *tapas* while meeting with friends. Weekends are usually spent visiting friends and family.

Movies are also popular in Spain. Movie theaters, as well as discos and night clubs, are often crowded, especially on weekends in the larger cities.

Spaniards like to read all sorts of magazines, newspapers, novels, short stories, etc. There is a great demand for magazines, and a large variety is available.

In recent years, *fútbol* (soccer) has displaced bullfighting as the most popular spectator sport, particularly in large towns such as Madrid and Barcelona which have especially famous teams. *Bicycling* is probably the next most popular activity. *Basquetball* is also played all over Spain; there are many popular professional players. Sunbathing, swimming, and skiing are also popular.

2.13 Festivals and Celebrations

Taking part in the various feasts celebrated in Spain will provide an unforgettable experience.

During the second half of May, Madrid celebrates its traditional *Fiesta de San Isidro*, one of the best known fiestas in Spain because of its brilliance and color. It coincides with the typical *verbenas*, or festivals, which are organized on the San Isidro meadow and in which the people of Madrid sing, dance, and amuse themselves beside the hermitage of their patron saint. Coincident with this fiesta are operas, ballets, concerts, great bullfights in the *Ventas* bullring, international sports competitions, and exhibitions of many different forms of art and culture.

Other Spanish festivals of tourist interest are Easter (Sevilla, Málaga, and Granada); *Corpus Christi* and *Cruz de Mayo* (Granada); *San Fermín* (Pamplona); *Carnaval* (Madrid, Canarias); *Fallas de San José* (Valencia); and *Ferias de Abril* (Sevilla).

Between spring and summer there are many pilgrimages, or *Romerías*, to take part in. Among the most famous are *El Rocío* in Almonte (Huelva) and *Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza* in Andújar (Jaén).

Bullfights, or *corridas de toros*, are seen at their best in southern Spain. In Sevilla, for example, these have been held since the 16th century, both as a form of weapons training and on the occasion of *fiestas*.

And finally, if you are interested in Spanish folk music, you can go to the famous *Tablaos*, with flamenco dancing available throughout most of the year.

3. COUNTRY FACTS

As you become more comfortable living in Spain, you will find that you want to know more facts about the country, such as how it is organized and governed. This section consists of the following aspects:

3.1 History
3.2 Map: Cities of Spain
3.3 Land and People (with a Geographical Features map)
3.4 Government
3.5 Economy
3.6 Education
3.7 Religion
3.8 Art and Crafts

3.1 History

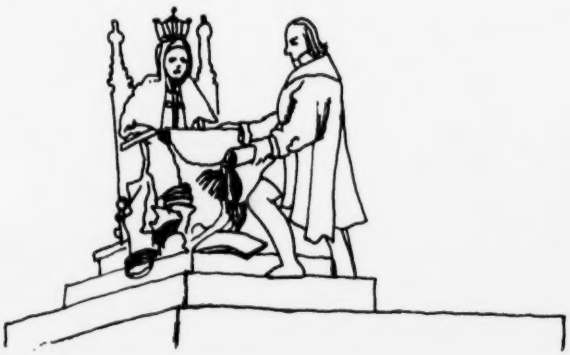
For centuries, the Iberian Peninsula was the scene of successive invasions and warfare. From about 800 B.C. to A.D. 700, Phoenicians, Greeks, and Carthaginians entered the peninsula from the Mediterranean. The same route was followed starting in A.D. 711 by the Islamic army and Moorish settlers from North Africa. The Celts, who had considerable influence in northern Spain, and later the Romans, who arrived in the second century B.C., came by the northern land route. The present Spanish language, religion, and legal systems have developed from those of the Roman period.

The Romans drove the Carthaginians out of Spain in the second century B.C. They remained for 700 years and developed most of the Iberian Peninsula. In Córdoba, in Salamanca, in Ronda, and throughout Spain, rivers are still crossed by bridges built by the Romans. The massive Roman aqueduct in Segovia still transports water today. And there are other signs of the Roman culture as well: a second-century A.D. triumphal arch graces the Catalonian countryside, and in nearby Tarragona, there are the remains of an amphitheater.

After the fall of Rome early in the fifth century, Germanic tribes, called the Visigoths, controlled most of Spain until 711. Then they, in

turn, were conquered by the Moors who sailed across the straits of Gibraltar and quickly seized Andalucía and then much of the rest of the peninsula. Following the practice of conquerors throughout history, the Moors destroyed the important Visigothic buildings. There are very few visible remains of that period.

Efforts to drive out the Moors lasted for nearly 800 years. They were finally expelled from the peninsula when Ferdinand and Isabella recaptured Granada, the Moor's final stronghold, in 1492, the same year Columbus sailed to the New World. The unification of what is now modern Spain was almost complete by 1512.



In the sixteenth century, with the rapid exploration and exploitation of new colonies in the Americas, the axis of European power swiftly moved from the central Mediterranean to the Atlantic seaboard, dominated by Portugal, Spain, and the Netherlands. Using the gold and silver of Mexico and Peru, Spain was the dominant European power. However, the simultaneous rise of France and England made them fractious contenders for Atlantic honors, and their skirmishes punctuated the period of Hapsburg ascendancy.

During the next period, the Hapsburg Empire was shaken by internal revolts and many costly wars with its neighbors. These were culminated by the disastrous destruction in 1588 of the "invincible Armada" with which Philip II tried to conquer Protestant England. The long, steady decline of Spain as a world power began at this time. It was caused not only by the cost of these wars and defeats, but perhaps more profoundly because Spain became dependent on plundered wealth and spent it on war and luxury rather than investing in productive enterprise, as France, the Netherlands, and England did during this period.

In the eighteenth century there was considerable growth and expansion within Spain. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, however, the growing economy and weak monarchy made Spain seem an attractive and relatively easily acquired property for Napoleon's scheme for a new Europe. Under French pressure, King Charles IV abdicated in favor of Joseph Bonapart in 1808. Although the Spanish Bourbon monarchy was restored after the fall of Napoleon, the new government was again reactionary. During this period and the rest of the nineteenth century, one after another of Spain's American colonies revolted and gained their independence, until Spain had lost most of its control and power in the New World.

Neutral in World War I, Spain subsequently suffered from a lack of governmental authority, and it experienced a series of economic, political, and social crises. After a period of dictatorial rule from 1923 to 1931, the Second Republic was established. This Spanish Republic was characterized by increasing political polarization, which led to the leftist Popular Front electoral victory in 1936.

Social and political pressures on the new government, along with growing and unchecked violence, soon developed by July 1936 into a devastating civil war. The rebellion against the Republic spread rapidly, coalescing into a National Front backed by the Church and the landowners. Within the first few months, Spain became a battleground for European ideologies. The Fascist regimes in Germany and Italy sent arms, supplies, advisors, and finally over 85,000 troops to support the National Front leader, General Francisco Franco. The U.S.S.R., France, and Mexico sent food and arms to the beleaguered leftist government of the Republic and its loyalist army; soon radical sympathizers came from all over Europe and North America and rallied to the government to form the International Brigades. Following the victory of his Nationalist

forces in 1939, casualties having reached over a million, General Franco ruled a nation exhausted politically and economically. During World War II, Spain was too weak to fight and remained officially neutral, though in obvious sympathy with the other Fascist powers in the Axis. With the Allied victory, Franco's neutral government survived the fall of Fascism in Europe. It continued in power for thirty-five years under its aging and reactionary leadership, and for a long time it remained on the fringe of European modernization, in effect a third world nation, depending on tourism. It did not even join the UN until 1955.

Upon the death of Franciso Franco in November 1975, Prince Juan Carlos de Borbón y Borbón, Franco's personally designated heir, assumed the titles of King and Chief of State. King Juan Carlos's commitment to the restoration and protection of democracy has proved to be successful. A democratic constitution established Spain as a parliamentary monarchy, with the prime minister responsible to the bicameral legislature, called the *Cortes* (Courts). The fragile, new democracy was tested by an attempted Rightest military coup in 1981. The coup failed. The following election was won by the Socialists, and on December 1, 1982, as directed by the constitution, King Juan Carlos, Franco's heir, nominated the Socialist leader, Felipe Gonzalez, as prime minister. The new Congress of Deputies approved. The parliamentary monarchy had worked through its first major transition of power, and the democratic constitution was seen to be a success.

In 1980, following the results of referendums in which Cataluña and the Basque country voted overwhelmingly for home rule, the two regions were granted limited autonomy. Campaigns for independence from Spain have continued, however, and have been characterized in the Basque region by extensive terrorism. This has decreased in recent years as increasing autonomy has been given to the provinces.

The eventual fulfillment of Spain's quest to join the European Community, coupled with its decision to join NATO, has signified the end both of its alienation from the rest of Europe and of its fifty-year struggle for recovery from the devastation and isolation caused by the civil war. Now Spain is looking to the future with a new sense of vigor and European identity because of its participation in the European Community.

3.2 Map: Cities of Spain

Cities: The following seven cities are the largest in Spain. Many other cities and towns are also noteworthy for their historical importance, architectural interests, and the beauty of their natural setting.

Madrid, the governmental and economic capital, is located almost in the center of the Iberian Peninsula at an elevation of 655 meters (2,150 ft.) on a large plateau, surrounded by the mountain peaks of Guadarrama and Gredos and the mountains of Toledo. Greater metropolitan area population: (1991) 4.5 million. City: (1990) 3,120,723.

Barcelona is the principal Mediterranean port of Spain. It is the capital of Cataluña (Catalonia) and has long rivaled Madrid as the cultural, industrial, and trading capital of Spain. Metropolitan area population: 4.2 million. City: 1,707,286.

Valencia is a smaller port on the Mediterranean coast south of Barcelona. It is the capital of the province of Valencia and is famous for its dramatic Moorish, fifteenth century, and baroque architecture. Metropolitan area population: 1 million. City: 758,738.

ZARAGOZA

Sevilla, the great city of the southern Spanish region of Andalucía, is on the Guadalquiver River. Historically Sevilla, just inland from Spain's short Atlantic coast, was the first center of trade with the Americas. That trade then shifted to the coastal city of Cádiz. Population: 900,000. City: 678,218.

Zaragoza on the Ebro River is the major city of the northern region of Aragon. The Pyrenees Mountains range to the north of the city. Population: 600,000.

Bilbao is the commercial and industrial center of the Basque region. It is on the hilly banks of the River Nervion. Heavily industrial, it is also rich in Basque cultural institutions. Population: 450,000.

Málaga is called the Capital of the Costa del Sol, the subtropical resort area north of Gibraltar on the Mediterranean coast. This is a charming and ancient port city with beautiful flowers and sunshine year-around to lure tourists from the rest of Spain and Europe to the north. Population: 400,000.

3.3 Land and People

Territory: Spanish territory comprises the mainland of Spain, the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands, and five places of sovereignty, including Ceuta and Melilla, on or along the Mediterranean coast of North Africa. It also seeks the return of Gibraltar which has been a British stronghold since 1704.

Geography: Area 507,606 sq. km. (195,988 sq. mi.), including the Balearic and Canary Islands. Spain is about the size of Arizona and Utah combined.

Terrain: Spain is the second most mountainous country in Europe. In the center of the country are high, arid plateaus. They cover nearly half of the land area. To the north, the high Pyrenees separate the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) from France and the rest of Europe; this separation has been an important cultural barrier throughout history.

Major Geographical Features of Spain

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Other major mountain chains are the Picos de Europa on the north coast, the Cantabrian Mountains in the northwest, the Sierra Gredos and Sierra Morena in the west near the border with Portugal, the Sierra de Guadarrama north of Madrid in central Spain, and the Sierra Nevada in the south.

Major rivers are the Guadalquivir in Andalucía in the south, the Guadiana in Extremadura, the Ebro in the north, and the Tajo on the central plateau south of Madrid.

Climate: In general, Spain is warm and dry. The high plateau can be cold at night and freezing in the winter. In the summer, most of Spain is very hot. By contrast, the northwest region, Galicia, has a generally temperate climate, with rain and high humidity much of the year. The southeast coast, Costa del Sol, is subtropical in climate and vegetation.

Languages: Spanish or Castilian (national), Catalán (17%), Galician (7%), Basque (2%), Valencian (1%).

Population: (1991) 39,384,516. Annual growth rate: 0.3%. Population density: 202 per sq. mile. Urban population (1987): 75%. Ethnic groups (all of Mediterranean and Germanic composite): Spanish (Castilian, Valencian, Andalusian, and Asturian) 72.8%, Catalán 16.4%, Galician 8.2%, and Basque 2.3%. Gypsies and, more recently, other immirgrant and refugee groups also form part of the population.

3.4 Government

Spain is a constitutional monarchy. Juan Carlos I was officially proclaimed king on November 22, 1975. His son, Felipe, is crown prince.

As in most modern countries, the national government has three branches. The executive branch is headed by the prime minister, who is nominated by the king. The choice must then be approved by the democratically elected Congress of Deputies.

The legislative branch is the bicameral *Cortes*. The larger body is the Congress of Deputies, with 350 members elected by proportional representation. The smaller body is the Senate, with 208 members. Four senators are elected from each of forty-seven peninsular (mainland) provinces, sixteen from three island provinces, and two each from the city enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla on the Moroccan coast.

The judicial branch is headed by the Constitutional Tribunal, which has jurisdiction in all cases involving constitutional issues. Other cases under civil and criminal law are handled by a judicial system consisting of the Supreme Tribunal and of territorial, provincial, regional, and municipal courts.

Although the ancient regions of Spain (Castilla, Aragón, Cataluña, Valencia, Andalucía, etc.) are still important to any understanding of Spanish culture, for administrative and electoral purposes Spain is also divided into fifty metropolitan provinces (forty-seven peninsular and three island provinces—one for the Balearic Islands and two for the Canary Islands), two territories (the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla), and three island groups off the Moroccan coast (the Alhucemas, Pelón de Velas de la Gomera, and Chafarinas Islands).

The major political parties are the Spanish Socialist Workers (PSOE), which came to power under Felipe Gonzales in 1982; the Popular Party (PP); the Social and Democratic Center party (CDS); and a coalition of communist parties, the United Left (IU), led by the Spanish Communist Party (PCE). In the autonomous regions, there are regional parties, Convergence and Union (CIV) in Cataluña and the Basque National Party (PNV) in the Basque country. The Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) and radical leftist GRAPO parties are Basque independence terrorist groups.

Spain's foreign relations after World War II were marred by Franco's isolationist policies and the Allies' dislike of his regime. In 1955, the UN allowed Spain to gain membership. After Franco's death in 1975, the government moved immediately to open universal diplomatic relations. In 1976, it signed a U.S.-Spanish Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. On May 30, 1982, Spain became the sixteenth member of NATO, thus becoming a formal ally of the United States. Growing out of these close economic and military ties with the U.S. is Spain's vital involvement as part of NASA's tracking and data collection system. The Spanish King, as head of state, has made many official visits to the U.S. with his queen. Prime Minister Gonzales and Crown Prince Felipe have also made official visits.

Spain's primary foreign policy concern in recent years has been to coordinate its efforts on economic and international affairs with the European Community (EC), which it joined officially in 1986. Outside of its NATO and EC commitments, Spain has taken independent initiatives in the following areas:

Spain has a special relationship with all of Hispanic Latin America symbolized by the ideal of *Hispanidad* or Spanishness, a recognition of shared culture and a commitment to future progressive involvement; Spain has a strong philosophical commitment to opposing apartheid and to peaceful progress in sub-Saharan Africa; Spain's interest in Morocco and by extension all of North Africa has strong roots, both because of their nearness and because of their shared history and culture—this includes Spain's ongoing attempt to broker peace for its old colony of Western Sahara; Spain's closeness to Morocco has also led to strong support for many Arab positions in the Middle East, although it also has good relations with Israel. Here, as in other parts of the world, Spain is using its influence to foster peaceful resolutions to problems of injustice and conflict.

The Spanish flag has two red horizontal bands above and below a wider yellow band, centered in which is the national coat of arms showing the royal seal. On this seal there is a shield, surmounted by a crown, which is linked by a red banner to two pillars, symbolic of The Pillars of Hercules, promontories at the narrowest point in the Straits of Gibraltar.

3.5 Economy

Spain came out of the postwar period as a poor country with little modern industry and a weak agricultural sector. Starting in the mid sixties, it began to catch up. From 1965 to 1974, it was the second fastest growing industrialized country in the world, with a real growth rate of 7% per annum. This expansion continued at a somewhat slower rate during the transition to democracy in the latter half of the 1970's, a period of international recession.

During the international expansion of the 1980's, Spain's economy flourished, bringing relative economic prosperity and an influx of new ideas. In the process of becoming integrated into the European Community (EC), which finally happened in 1986, Spain made many economic and social changes. These included liberalizing strictly protectionist labor laws and industrial "reconversion," the planned and partly government financed closing down or modernization of certain financially unsound industries. This largely successful program entailed retraining approximately 70,000 workers and opening targeted industries to massive Spanish and international investment, particularly from the EC. Notable examples are Ford, General Motors, and Volkswagen investments in the Spanish automotive industry.

Agriculture has dropped to about 5% of the GNP because, with Spain's limited and arid arable land, it has not kept up with industrial expansion. Grain, olives, and wine grapes are Spain's most successful agricultural products. Spain does not compete well on other crops and most livestock with other EC countries, from which it imports food. Spain is also one of the most important markets for U.S. agricultural products.

Tourism has continued to boom, thanks to Spain's climate, beautiful countryside, and historical interest. This boom has been bolstered by major international investment and by the 1992 exposure of the Barcelona Olympics and the world's fair in Sevilla. This Expo 92 commemorated the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America and the reuniting of Spain under Ferdinand and Isabella. Aside from dramatizing these two events, which had both positive and negative consequences historically, the Expo celebrated the rich contributions of the Moors and the Jews to Spanish culture.

Gross national product: (1990) $489 bil. Per capita: $12,442. GDP: $436 bil.

Annual growth rate: (1989) 4.9%.

Natural resources: Coal, lignite, iron ore, uranium, mercury, pyrites, fluorspar, gypsum, zinc, lead, tungsten, copper, kaolin, hydroelectric power.

Agriculture: (5.3% of GNP); *products* — cereals and feedgrains, vegetables, citrus fruits, wine, olives and olive oil, sunflowers, livestock.

Industry: (30.3% of GNP); *types* — processed foods, textiles, footwear, petrochemicals, steel, automobiles, consumer goods, electronics.

Trade: (1989) *Exports* — (1991) $59.3 billion: fresh and canned fruits, live animals, wood, automobiles, iron and steel products, clothing, footwear, textiles. *Major markets* —EC 67.8%, U.S. 6.5%

Imports — (1991) 93.8 billion: oilseeds, grains, oil, chemicals, machinery, transportation equipment. *Major sources* — EC 57%, U.S. 8.%, and Middle East 3%.

Tourist income: (1989) $16.1 billion.

Official exchange rate: Fluctuates; $1 = 92.59 pesetas, as of July, 1992.

Fiscal year: Calendar year.

Membership in International Organizations: UN and its specialized agencies, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), INTELSAT, World Tourism Organization (WTO), Council of Europe, European Community (EC), Western European Union (WEU), Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

3.6 Education

The educational system in Spain starts at the pre-elementary level (*prescolar*), for children under 6 years of age. Compulsory education begins with the primary school or General Basic Education (EGB), runs from ages 6 through 16, and compares to grades 1–11 in the United States. Ninety-seven percent of the population is literate.

EGB is free in public schools and in many private schools which receive government subsidies. Following EGB graduation, students attend either a secondary school offering the Unified Polyvalent Baccalaureate (BUP) program or a School of Professional Education offering a vocational training program (FP). The three-year BUP program, comparable to grades 9–11 in the United States, is free at public schools. It is normally followed by a year-long university orientation course before formal university study begins. Spanish public education is currently undergoing extensive curricular reforms.

The Spanish university system offers five-year programs at the *Facultades* (law, sciences, and humanities) or at the Superior Technical Schools (in engineering and architecture). Students graduate after five years of study (six in medicine), becoming *Licenciados* (AS), engineers, or architects. Additional graduate studies through the doctorate level are pursued through graduate courses and a thesis or technical project.

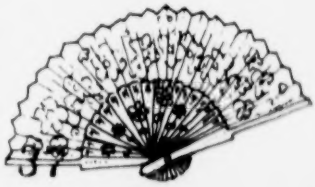
3.7 Religion

Spain has no official state religion. The constitution of 1978 disestablished the Roman Catholic church, while recognizing the role it plays in Spanish society. More than 90% of the population is nominally Roman Catholic.

3.8. Art and Crafts

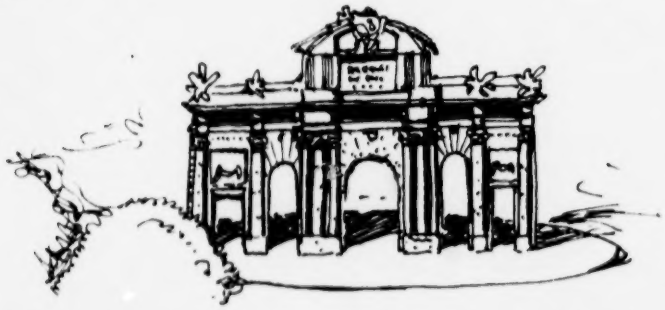
Crafts: Crafts in Spain have a long tradition, and many articles are still produced following old models as well as new designs.

Typical craft products available with regional variations or as regional specialties are hammered copper, carpets, polychromate clay, embroidery, basketry, ceramics, embossed leather, engravings, guitars, wrought iron, artistic gold and silver work, inlaid wood (*taracea*), jewelry, polychromate in general, tulle, lacework (*mantillas*), mirrors, damascene steel articles (toledo blades), esparto grass, and artificial pearls.



Music: The manifestation of Spanish folk art best known abroad is the Anadalusian flamenco. The oldest and most authentic form of the flamenco is the *Cante hondo* (deep or fervent singing), which shows evident Arab influence.

In Madrid, the *Teatro Real* is dedicated exclusively to concerts. The *Teatro de la Zarzuela* is dedicated to seasons of opera, ballet, and light opera.



Theaters: In Madrid, there are two official theaters, the *Español* and the *María Guerrero,* which frequently present works of classical Spanish playwrights as well as occasional highly praised modern works and translations of great worldwide successes.

Museums: Spain has a great many museums displaying the great masterworks, not only of Spanish painters, but of those with universal reputations. In addition to museums dedicated to painting, there are those specializing in sculpture, archaeology, sciences. And, of course, there are also many art galleries offering the work of contemporary Spanish artists for sale.

When you are in Madrid, be sure to visit the Prado Museum, one of the world's great art galleries, installed in a splendid eighteenth century building. The Prado displays Spanish paintings from the twelfth to the eighteenth centuries. Classical sculpture, coin collections, and enamel-and-gold work are also on display.

Also not to be missed are the Moorish Alhambra, one of the architectural treasures of the world, and the summer palace and gardens of Generalife in Granada. Also in Andalucía, in Córdoba, are the palace and gardens of the Alcázar and the grand mosque, or *Mezquita.*

4. THE SPANISH LANGUAGE

Spanish belongs to the Romance family of languages, along with Catalán, French, Italian, Portuguese, and several others. These languages all have their origins in ancient Latin. Greek, Italian, French, and Arabic have also exerted some influence on Spanish. With the discovery of the New World, Spanish was brought to the Americas. There it borrowed many words over the centuries from its contact with the indigenous tongues. In recent years, Spanish has also borrowed from English, as well as contributing many words to the English language. It is no wonder that many Spanish words may seem familiar to you.

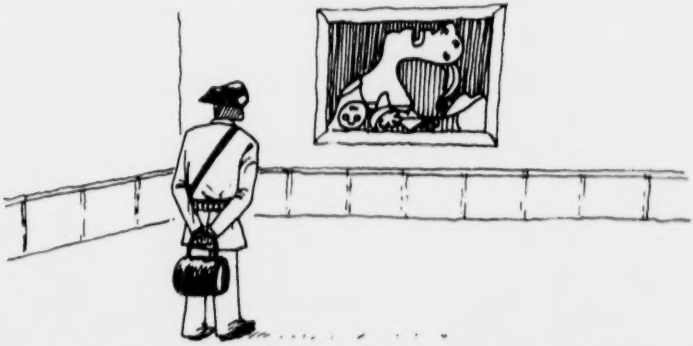
Nearly 3 billion people speak Spanish, the world's fourth major language. Spanish is spoken over a vast area from Spain to the Americas, including Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South America (except Brazil), and many parts of the United States.

Variations exist in Spanish (often called "Castilian" in Spain) pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar, yet speakers can usually understand each other despite the region. In addition, other languages are also spoken in Spain—an area about four times that of New York State—*vasco* (Basque), *gallego* (Galician), *catalán* (Catalan), and *valenciano* (Valencian) are spoken in different regions and enjoy official status. These vary from one another as do German, French, and English. Basque is spoken primarily in the northeastern section of Spain along the Pyrenees. Galician is spoken in northwestern Spain and is a mixture of Portuguese, Spanish, and Basque. Catalan is spoken by about 3 million people in the province of Cataluña and has traces of French, Italian, Basque, and Spanish. And Valencian is spoken just south of Cataluña along the southeastern coast facing the Mediterranean. These languages all have official status at provincial levels; however, Castilian remains the officially recognized language of the country at the national level.

Spanish spread rapidly throughout the Iberian peninsula in the latter part of the fifteenth century when Fernando de Aragón and Isabel de Castilla married, uniting Spain. Fernando accepted the speech of Castile, making Castilian (or Spanish) the official language of the country.

At the same time, the defeat of the Moors in Granada in 1492 diminished Arab influence, which had affected the Spanish tongue for over 700 years. Columbus's historic voyage that same year took Castilian to the New World, which explains its widespread use in Latin America today.

In the New World, the language of the *conquistadores* underwent various changes hastened by contact with the native tongues. Many new words for the things unknown to the Peninsular speakers were often borrowed, reflecting their "American" experience. In areas of heaviest Indian influence, such as Mexico, Guatemala, and the Andean regions, the new words made Spanish a marvelously expressive and colorful idiom, which often distinguishes Latin American speech even today. Immigrants from other areas of Europe and slaves brought from Africa further changed Latin American Spanish. And more recently, English has had a profound effect, as contact between neighbors north and south increases. Spanish, as with all languages, continues to change in response to technological, social, and cultural changes.



Despite pronunciation and vocabulary variations throughout the Hispanic world, Spanish generally follows the same grammatical patterns everywhere. The Royal Academy of the Spanish Language (*Real Academia de la Lengua Española*) strives to maintain consistent standards. Several dialect areas are commonly recognized. These are central and northern Spain (which use Castilian), southern Spain (whose speech is closer to that of their Caribbean counterparts), Mexico, and the coastal and mountainous regions of Central and South America. Fortunately, regional differences do not normally interfere with communication. When traveling, however, you would do well to follow the patterns of the region you visit.

4.1. A Pronunciation Guide

The chart below will be your guide to pronouncing the Spanish words used in this book. Review the chart to see how Spanish sounds are properly pronounced. Three points should be stressed about the chart. First, luckily Spanish spelling is much more phonetic than English. Its rules are simple and consistent. Second, pay special attention to vowels, since they affect the overall pronunciation of a word and are crucial to making yourself understood. Third, note that word stress is indicated by showing the syllable to be accentuated in capital letters, as in the example: *turista* (too-REES-tah).

Vowels

Spanish spelling	Approximate sound in English	Symbol	Transcription example
a	(father)	ah	*turista* (too-REES-tah)
e	(say)	ay	*peso* (PAY-soh)
e	(met)	eh	*cerca* (THEHR-kah)
i	(beet)	ee	*día* (DEE-ah)
o	(both)	oh	*foto* (FOH-toh)
u	(booth)	oo	*mucho* (MOO-choh)

Frequent Vowel Combinations (Diphthongs)

ai	(ripe)	y	*bailar* (by-LAHR)
au	(now)	ow	*auto* (OW-toh)
ei	(may)	ay	*peine* (PAY-nay)
ie	(yet)	yeh	*siempre* (SYEHM-pray)
oy	(soy sauce)	oy	*estoy* (ehs-TOY)
ue	(wet)	weh	*bueno* (BWEH-noh)

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Consonants

b d k l m n p s t	similar to English	
c* (before e/i/y)	like English th in three	*cine* (THEE-nay)
c (before a/o/u)	hard k sound (key)	*cosa* (KOH-sah)
cc*	like k, followed by th	*lección* (lehk-THYON)
ch	hard ch sound (champ)	*mucho* (MOO-choh)
g (before a/o/u)	hard g (go)	*goma* (GOH-mah)
g (before e/i)	breathy h (heat)	*general* (heh-neh-RAHL)
h	always silent	*hasta* (AHS-tah)
j	breathy h (hot)	*José* (hoh-SAY)
ll	l followed by y (yes)	*silla* (SEE-yah)
ñ	slurred ny (canyon)	*señor* (sehn-YOR)
qu	as in English k (kite)	*que* (kay)
r	single trill	*pero* (PEH-roh)
rr	several trills	*rosa* (RROH-sah)
		perro (PEH-rroh)
v	as in English b (bite)	*vaca* (BAH-kah)
x	as in English ks (rocks)	*taxi* (TAHK-see)
z*	English th	*zona* (THOH-nah)

*In the south of Spain, and in Latin America, "z," and also "c" before e/i, are pronounced like the English "s" in save . Examples: zona (SOH-nah), cera (SEH-rah), cinco (SEEN-koh). In this book, however, Castilian Spanish pronunciation is used.

4.2. Some Basic Grammar

Following is a brief outline of the essential features of Spanish.

Articles

Nouns in Spanish are either masculine or feminine. Articles agree in gender and number with the noun.

1. Definite article (the): *el, la, los, las*

	singular		**plural**	
masculine	*el niño*	the boy	*los niños*	the boys
feminine	*la casa*	the house	*las casas*	the houses

2. Indefinite article (a/an): *un, una, unos, unas*

masculine	*un viaje*	a trip	*unos viajes*	(some) trips
feminine	*una carta*	a letter	*unas cartas*	(some) letters

Nouns

1. Most nouns ending in *-o* are masculine. Those ending in *-a* are usually feminine.

hermano brother *hermana* sister

2. Nouns ending in a vowel add s to form the plural; nouns ending in a consonant add *-es*.

señora > *señoras* *señor* > *señores*

3. To show possession, use the preposition *de* (of).

las casas de los señores	the men's houses
la camisa del niño*	the boy's shirt
los zapatos de la niña	the girl's shoes
los zapatos de las niñas	the girls' shoes
la maleta de Juan	John's suitcase

*(*del* is the contraction of *de* + *el*).

4. A group including masculine and feminine individuals or items is grammatically masculine.

Un niño y dos niñas son tres niños.
One boy and two girls are three children.

Adjectives

1. Adjectives agree with the nouns they describe in gender and number. Most adjectives form their plurals as do nouns, by adding -s to a vowel ending (usually *-a* or *-o*) and *-es* to a consonant ending.

una casa pequeña	a little (small) house
dos casas pequeñas	two little houses
un niño pequeño	a little boy
dos niños pequeños	two little boys
un libro español	a Spanish book
dos libros españoles	two Spanish books

2. As a rule, the adjective follows the noun.

3. Possessive adjectives.

	singular	plural
my	*mi*	*mis*
your (familiar)	*tu*	*tus*
your (polite)	*su*	*sus*
his/her/its	*su*	*sus*
our	*nuestro(a)*	*nuestros(as)*
your (familiar)	*vuestro(a)*	*vuestros(as)*
your (polite)	*su*	*sus*
their	*su*	*sus*

Possessive adjectives agree with the thing possessed, not with the possessor.

su libro	**his** or **her** or **their** book
su habitación	**his** or **her** or **their** room
sus casas	**his** or **her** or **their** houses

4. Comparative and superlative are formed by adding *más* (more) or *menos* (less) and *lo más* (the most) and *lo menos* (the least), respectively, before the adjective.

bonito, más bonito	beautiful, more beautiful
lo más bonito	the most beautiful
menos bonito	less beautiful
lo menos bonito	the least beautiful

Adverbs

These are formed by adding *-mente* to the feminine form of the adjective, if it differs from the masculine, or to the masculine.

lento(a)	slow	*fácil*	easy
lentamente	slowly	*fácilmente*	easily

Adjectives are sometimes used as adverbs. For example, *fuerte* can mean strong or strongly.

Pronouns

1. Possessive pronouns.

	singular	plural
mine	*mío (a)*	*míos (as)*
yours (familiar sing.)	*tuyo (a)*	*tuyos (as)*
yours (polite sing.)	*suyo (a)*	*suyos (as)*
his/hers/its	*suyo (a)*	*suyos (as)*
ours	*nuestro (a)*	*nuestros (as)*
yours (familiar pl.)	*vuestro(a)*	*vuestros(as)*
yours (polite pl.)	*suyo (a)*	*suyos (as)*
theirs	*suyo (a)*	*suyos (as)*

Possessive pronouns agree with the thing possessed, not with the possessor.

María, el libro es tuyo. Maria, the book is yours.

2. Demonstrative pronouns.

	masculine	feminine	neuter
this	*éste*	*ésta*	*esto*
these	*éstos*	*éstas*	*estos*
that	*ése*	*ésa*	*eso*
	aquél	*aquélla*	*aquello*
those	*ésos*	*ésas*	*esos*
	aquéllos	*aquéllas*	*aquellos*

Me gusta esto. I like this.
¡Estas son casas pequeñas! These are little houses!

The above forms are also used as demonstrative adjectives, but written accent marks are dropped from the feminine and masculine forms.

Esas niñas van a clase. Those girls are going to class.

3. Personal pronouns.

	subject	direct object	indirect object
I	*yo*	*me*	*me*
you (familiar)	*tú*	*te*	*te*
you (polite)	*usted*	*lo*	*se*
he	*él*	*lo*	*le*
she	*ella*	*la*	*le*
it	*él/ella*	*lo/la*	*le*
we	*nosotros (as)*	*nos*	*nos*
you (familiar)	*vosotros(as)*	*os*	*os*
you (polite)	*ustedes*	*los*	*se*
they	*ellos (as)*	*los*	*les*

Subject pronouns are sometimes omitted. In Spain, the familiar *tú* (sing.) and *vosotros* (pl.) are commonly used when talking to friends, relatives, children, and among young people; the polite form *usted* (sing.) (often abbreviated to *Ud.*) is used in most other situations; however there is an increasing tendency to use "vosotros" to replace "ustedes" (pl.) when addressing multiple individuals, known or unknown.

Verbs

1. Spanish uses two important **auxiliary verbs**. Whereas *ser* can also be used alone, *haber* can only be used with another verb.

ser (to be)*	**haber** (to have)
yo soy (I am)	*yo he* (I have)
tú eres (you are)	*tú has* (you have)
usted es (you are)	*usted ha* (you have)
él/ella es (he/she is)	*él/ella ha* (he/she has)
nosotros (as) somos (we are)	*nosotros (as) hemos* (we have)
vosotros sois (you are)	*vosotros habéis* (you have)
ustedes son (you are)	*ustedes han* (you have)
ellos/ellas son (they are)	*ellos/ellas han* (they have)

*Spanish has two verbs for "to be." *Ser* is used to describe a permanent condition. *Estar* is used to describe location or a temporary condition; for example: Location: *Mi amigo* ***está*** *allí.* My friend **is** there. Temporary Condition: *Ella* ***está*** *contenta.* She **is** happy.

2. Regular verbs. There are three main categories of regular verbs:

Infinitive:	ends in *-ar*	ends in *-er*	ends in *-ir*
	hablar (to speak)	**comer** (to eat)	**partir** (to leave)
yo	*hablo*	*como*	*partos*
tú	*hablas*	*comes*	*partes*
usted	*habla*	*come*	*parte*
él ella	*habla*	*come*	*parte*
nosotros	*hablamos*	*comemos*	*partimos*
vosotros	*habláis*	*coméis*	*partís*
ustedes	*hablan*	*comen*	*parten*
ellos ellas	*hablan*	*comen*	*parten*

3. Irregular verbs. As in many languages, exceptions have to be learned separately. The following are four common irregular verbs:

Infinitive:	**poder** (to be able, can)	**ir** (to go)	**ver** (to see)	**conocer** (to know [a person])
yo	*puedo*	*voy*	*veo*	*conozco*
tú	*puedes*	*vas*	*ves*	*conoces*
usted	*puede*	*va*	*ve*	*conoce*
él ella	*puede*	*va*	*ve*	*conoce*
nosotros	*podemos*	*vamos*	*vemos*	*conocemos*
vosotros	*podéis*	*vais*	*veis*	*conocéis*
ustedes	*pueden*	*van*	*ven*	*conocen*
ellos ellas	*pueden*	*van*	*ven*	*conocen*

Negatives

Form the negative by placing *no* before the verb.

Es difícil.	It's difficult.
No es difícil.	It's not difficult.

Questions

Form questions by changing the intonation of your voice. The personal pronoun is often left out, both in affirmative sentences and in questions.

Hablo español.	I speak Spanish.
¿Hablas español?	Do you speak Spanish?

Note: Spanish uses a double question mark. The same is true of exclamation marks.

¡Qué barato!	How cheap!

Question words

Who?	*¿Quién?*	(kyehn?)
Who? (plural)	*¿Quiénes?*	(KYEHN-nays?)
What?	*¿Qué?*	(kay?)
Why?	*¿Por qué?*	(pohr KAY?)
When?	*¿Cuándo?*	(KWAHN-doh?)
Where?	*¿Dónde?*	(DOHN-day?)
Where from?	*¿De dónde?*	(day DOHN-day?)
Where to?	*¿Adónde?*	(ah-DOHN-day?)
How?	*¿Cómo?*	(KOH-moh?)
How much?	*¿Cuánto?*	(KWAHN-toh?)

Who is speaking?	*¿Quién habla?*
Where are you going?	*¿Adónde vas?*
What's happening? (How's it going?)	*¿Qué pasa?*

May/Can . . . ?

May I have . . . ? Can you give me . . . ?	*¿Puede darme . . . ?*
May we have . . . ?	*¿Puede darnos . . . ?*
Can you show me . . . ?	*¿Puede enseñarme . . . ?*
Can you tell me . . . ?	*¿Puede decirme . . . ?*
Can you help me, please?	*¿Puede ayudarme, por favor?*

Wanting

I'd like	*Quisiera . . . .*
We'd like	*Quisiéramos . . . .*
Please give me	*Por favor, déme . . . .*
Please bring me	*Por favor, tráigame . . . .*
I'm hungry.	*Tengo hambre.*
I'm thirsty.	*Tengo sed.*
I'm tired.	*Estoy cansado(-a).*
I'm lost.	*Estoy perdido(-a).*
It's important.	*Es importante.*
It's urgent. Hurry up!	*Es urgente. ¡Dése prisa!*
Now. Immediately!	*Ahora. ¡Inmediatamente!*

It is/There is . . .

It is	*Es . . . .*
Is it . . . ?	*¿Es . . . ?*
It isn't	*No es . . . .*
There is/There are	*Hay . . . .*
Is there/Are there . . . ?	*¿Hay . . . ?*
There is no	*No hay . . . .*
There are no	*No hay . . . .*

Prepositions and other words

behind	*detrás*	before	*antes*
to	*a*	after	*después*
for	*para*	soon	*pronto*
until	*hasta*	already	*ya*
toward	*hacia*	then	*entonces*
since	*desde*	again	*otra vez*
through	*por, a través de*	there	*allí*
at	*a*	here	*aquí*
in	*en, dentro*	inside	*dentro*
during	*durante*	outside	*fuera*
with	*con*	down	*abajo*
without	*sin*	up	*arriba*

above	*encima*	or	*o*
along	*a lo largo*	also	*también*
between	*entre*	perhaps	*quizá tal vez*
on	*sobre en*	not	*no*
under	*debajo*	nothing	*nada*
none	*ninguno*	nobody	*nadie*
and	*y*	gladly	*con mucho gusto*

Some common words

cheap/expensive	*barato caro*
good/bad	*bueno malo*
better/worse	*mejor peor*
right/wrong	*correcto equivocado*
light/heavy	*ligero pesado*
easy/difficult	*fácil difícil*
full/empty	*lleno vacío*
vacant/occupied	*libre ocupado*
open/shut	*abierto cerrado*
old/young	*viejo joven*
old/new	*viejo nuevo*
big/small	*grande pequeño*
quick/slow	*rápido lento*
beautiful/ugly	*bonito feo*
warm/cold	*caliente frío*
never/always	*nunca siempre*
early/late	*temprano tarde*
near/far	*cerca lejos*
left/right	*izquierdo derecho*
yes/no	*sí no*

Quantities

a little/a lot	*un poco mucho*
much/many	*mucho muchos*
more than/less than	*más que menos que*
enough/too much	*bastante demasiado*
some	*unos unas*
any	*alguno alguna*

Numbers

1	*un, uno*	1st	*primero* (a)	20	*veinte*
2	*dos*	2nd	*segundo* (a)	21	*veintiuno*
3	*tres*	3rd	*trecero* (a)	22	*veintidos*
4	*cuatro*	4th	*cuarto* (a)	30	*treinta*
5	*cinco*	5th	*quinto* (a)	40	*cuarenta*
6	*seis*	6th	*sexto* (a)	50	*cincuenta*
7	*siete*	7th	*séptimo* (a)	60	*sesenta*
8	*ocho*	8th	*octavo* (a)	70	*setenta*
9	*nueve*	9th	*noveno* (a)	80	*ochenta*
10	*diez*	10th	*décimo* (a)	90	*noventa*
11	*once*			100	*cien*
12	*doce*			101	*ciento uno*
13	*trece*			110	*ciento diez*
14	*catorce*			200	*doscientos*
15	*quince*			500	*quinientos*
16	*dieciséis*			700	*setecientos*
17	*diecisiete*			900	*novecientos*
18	*dieciocho*			1,000	*mil*
19	*diecinueve*			1,000,000	*un millón*

Time Words

What time is it? *¿Que hora es?*

hour	*hora*	year	*año*
day	*día*	yesterday	*ayer*
week	*semana*	today	*hoy*
month	*mes*	tomorrow	*mañana*
Sunday	*domingo*	Thursday	*jueves*
Monday	*lunes*	Friday	*viernes*
Tuesday	*martes*	Saturday	*sábado*
Wednesday	*miércoles*		
January	*enero*	July	*julio*
February	*febrero*	August	*agosto*
March	*marzo*	September	*septiembre*
April	*abril*	October	*octubre*
May	*mayo*	November	*noviembre*
June	*junio*	December	*diciembre*

4.3 Some Useful Expressions

Greetings

Good morning	*Buenos días*	BWEHN-nohs DEE-ahs
Good afternoon	*Buenas tardes*	BWEHN-nahs TAHR-days
Good evening Good night	*Buenas noches*	BWEHN-nahs NOH-chays

Note: In Spanish, "*buenas noches*" is used both when arriving and when leaving, roughly after sunset.

Approaching someone

Excuse me,	*Perdone,*	pehr-DOH-nay
• sir	• *señor*	• sehn-YOHR
• ma'am	• *señora*	• sehn-YOH-rah
• miss/ms.	• *señorita*	• sehn-yoh-REE-tah

Do you speak English?	*¿Habla usted inglés?* AH-blah oos-TEHD een-GLAYS?
Do you understand English?	*¿Comprende inglés?* kohm-PREHN-day een-GLAYS?
Yes/No.	*Sí/no.* see/noh
I'm sorry.	*Lo siento.* loh SYEHN-toh
I don't speak Spanish.	*No hablo español.* noh AH-bloh ehs-pahn-YOHL
I don't understand.	*No comprendo.* noh kom-PREHN-doh

I understand a little.	*Comprendo un poco.* kom-PREHN-doh oon POH-koh
I speak very little Spanish.	*Hablo muy poco español.* AH-bloh MOO-ee POH-koh ehs-pahn-YOHR
Please speak slowly.	*Hable despacio, por favor.* AH-blay dehs-PAH-thyoh, pohr fah-BOHR
Please repeat.	*Repita, por favor.* rray-PEE-tah, pohr fah-BOHR
Thank you.	*Gracias.* GRAH-thyahs

Asking for help

Excuse me.	*Permítame.* pehr-MEE-tah-may
May I ask a question?	*Una pregunta, por favor.* OO-nah pray-GOON-tah, pohr fah-BOHR
Could you please help me?	*¿Podría ayudarme?* poh-DREE-ah ah-yoo-DAHR-may?

Identifying yourself

I'm a tourist. We're tourists.	*Soy turista.* *Somos turistas.*	soy too-REES-tah SOH-mos too-REES-tas
I'm not from here.	*No soy de aquí.*	noh soy day ah-KEE
I'm from the U.S.	*Soy de los Estados Unidos.*	soy day 'os ehs-TAH-dohs oo-NEE-dohs
I'm from . . .	*Soy de . . .*	soy day
• New York	• *Nueva York*	• NWAY-bay yohrk
• Philadelphia	• *Filadelfia*	• fee-lah-DEHL-fyah

• Chicago	• *Chicago*	• chee-KAH-goh
• California	• *California*	• kah-lee-FOHR-nya
I'm North American.	*Soy norte-americano (-a).**	soy NOHR-tay-ah-meh-ree-KAHN-oh (-ah)
We're Americans.	*Somos americanos (-as)**.	SOH-mohs ah-meh-ree-KAHN-ohs (-ahs)

*In Spanish, with few exceptions, most nouns and adjectives end in *-o* for male speakers, *-a* for females, with the corresponding plurals *-os*, *-as*. Use *-os* when including both males and females.

Politeness/courtesy

Please.	*Por favor.*	pohr fah-BOHR
Thank you.	*Gracias.*	GRAH-thyahs
You're welcome.	*De nada.*	day NAH-dah
Sorry (excuse me).	*Disculpe.*	des-KOOL-pay
Excuse me.	*Con permiso.*	kohn pehr-MEE-soh
Good appetite.	*Provecho.* *Buen provecho.*	proh-BAY-choh/ BWEHN proh-BAY-choh
It's a pleasure.	*Much gusto.*	MOO-choh GOOS-toh.
It doesn't matter.	*No importa.*	Noh ihm-POHR-tah

Leave-taking

See you soon.	*Hasta pronto.*	AHS-tah PROHN-toh
So long.	*Hasta luego.*	AHS-tah LWEH-goh
See you later.	*Hasta la vista.*	AHS-tah lah BEE-stah

See you later.	*Hasta más tarde.*	ahs-tah mahs TAHR-day
See you tomorrow.	*Hasta mañana.*	ahs-tah mahn-YAH-nah
Good-bye/Bye.	*Adiós.*	ah-DYOHS

Note: When passing in the street, Spanish friends say "*Adiós*" ("Good-bye" instead of "Hello") if they do not intend to stop and speak.

4.4 Some Typically Spanish Expressions

chaval, chavala	boy, girl
chorizo	a thief or mugger
churros	fried dough
¿Diga?	used when answering the telephone
duro	expression for 5 *pesetas*
en fin	"and so . . ." (a common interjection during conversation)
guarrada	a gross or disgusting act
guarro	a slob or disgusting person
guay (está guay)	used by young people, meaning "cool, attractive beautiful"
¡Jesus!	exclamation of surprise; also said when someone sneezes
la movida	action, as in "where the action is"
los Beautiful	the "jet set"
macho· macha	used by young people when addressing each other, like "hey man" or "dude"

majo, maja	"cool," "sharp," or "attractive"
mala leche	literally means "bad milk," used to mean "with bad intentions." For example, "*me lo hizo con mala leche.*"
platos combinados	"combination dishes" (inexpensive fixed meals of the day sold at certain restaurants)
pues nada	"well, anyway" (common interjection used in conversation)
¡qué rollo!	"what a problem," "what a pain in the neck" (used to refer to a situation)
tacos	foul or swear words
tapas	snacks usually found in bars
tascas	typical bars where Spaniards go to drink and socialize
tio, tia	"guy," "gal," also like "man" or "dude"
tinto	red wine
una caña	a glass of beer
¡Vale!	"OK!" (a frequent interjection during conversations)
¡Vamos!	"come on," "ya' know" (a common interjection in conversation)
vamos de marcha	"let's go out," "let's go!"
vosotros	"you" (informal plural), typically used only in Castilian Spanish

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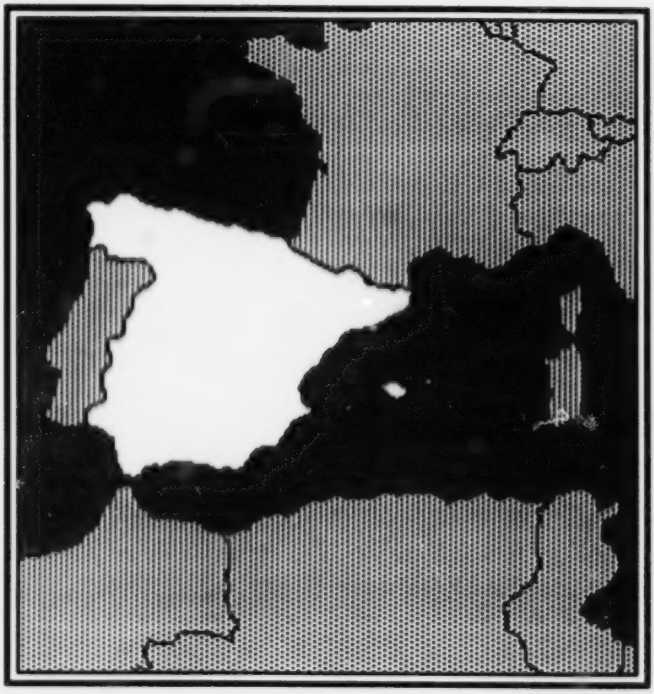

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